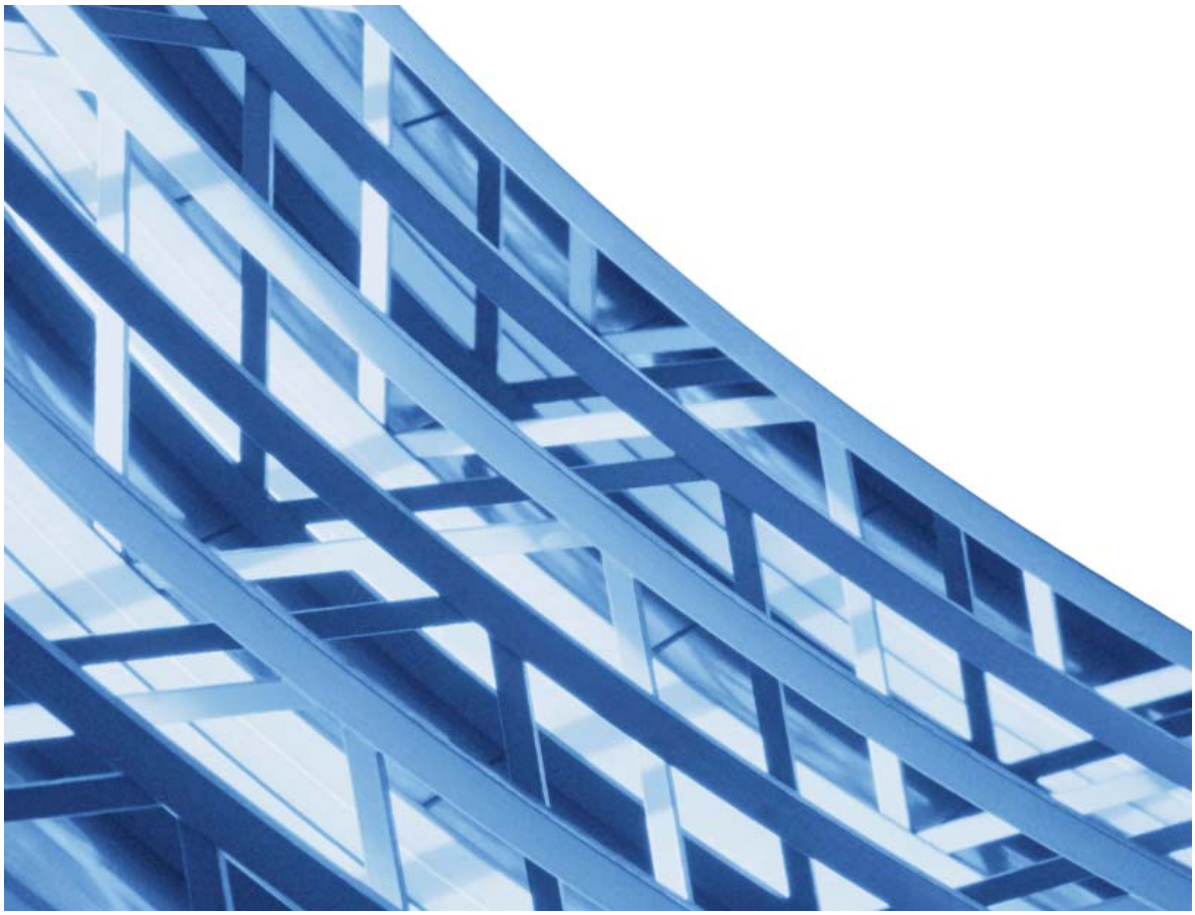
AutoCAD LT® 2010

Preview Guide



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Introduction

AutoCAD LT® software is known for its efficiency, power, and reliability. And now it's better than ever. With AutoCAD LT 2010, we've added more 2D features you've been asking for like ALIGN, xref tools, and block attribute commands. High-quality PDF output means you can easily share drawings with almost anyone. And you can save time by attaching PDFs as an underlay in drawing files. The professional standard in drafting and detailing software now has even more ways to increase your productivity. Take full command with AutoCAD LT 2010.

User Interface

Initial Setup

Easily tailor the AutoCAD LT environment to meet your needs using Initial Setup, which is displayed the first time you launch AutoCAD LT. With Initial Setup you can choose your industry as well as workspace and drawing template preferences. The choices you make in the Initial Setup affect the default settings of various AutoCAD LT functionality, including drawing templates, Autodesk® Seek filters, the Unified Online Experience portal, and workspaces.

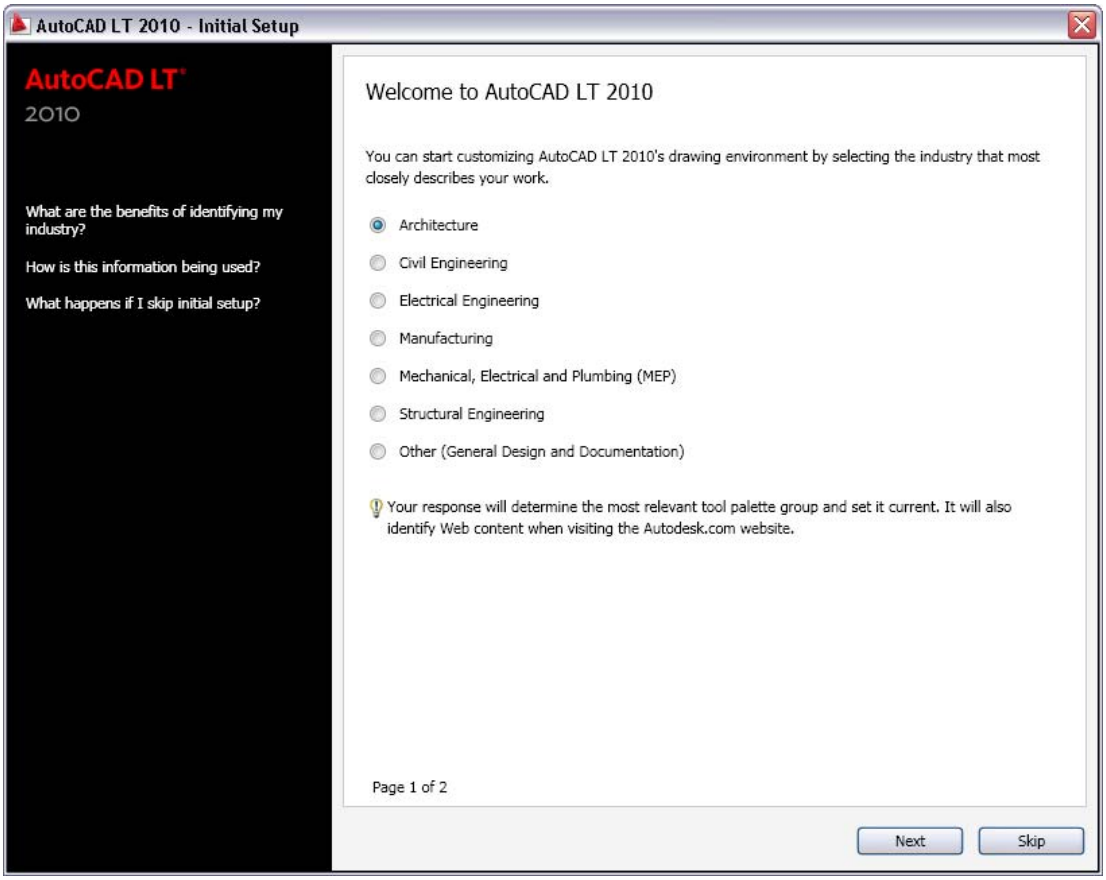
AutoCAD LT 2010 - Initial Setup
AutoCAD LT
2010
What are the benefits of identifying my industry?
How is this information being used?
What happens if I skip initial setup?
Welcome to AutoCAD LT 2010
You can start customizing AutoCAD LT 2010's drawing environment by selecting the industry that most closely describes your work.
Architecture
Civil Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Manufacturing
Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP)
Structural Engineering
Other (General Design and Documentation)
Your response will determine the most relevant tool palette group and set it current. It will also identify Web content when visiting the Autodesk.com website.
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Figure 1. Initial Setup

You can also access the Initial Setup dialog from the User Preferences tab of the Options dialog box.

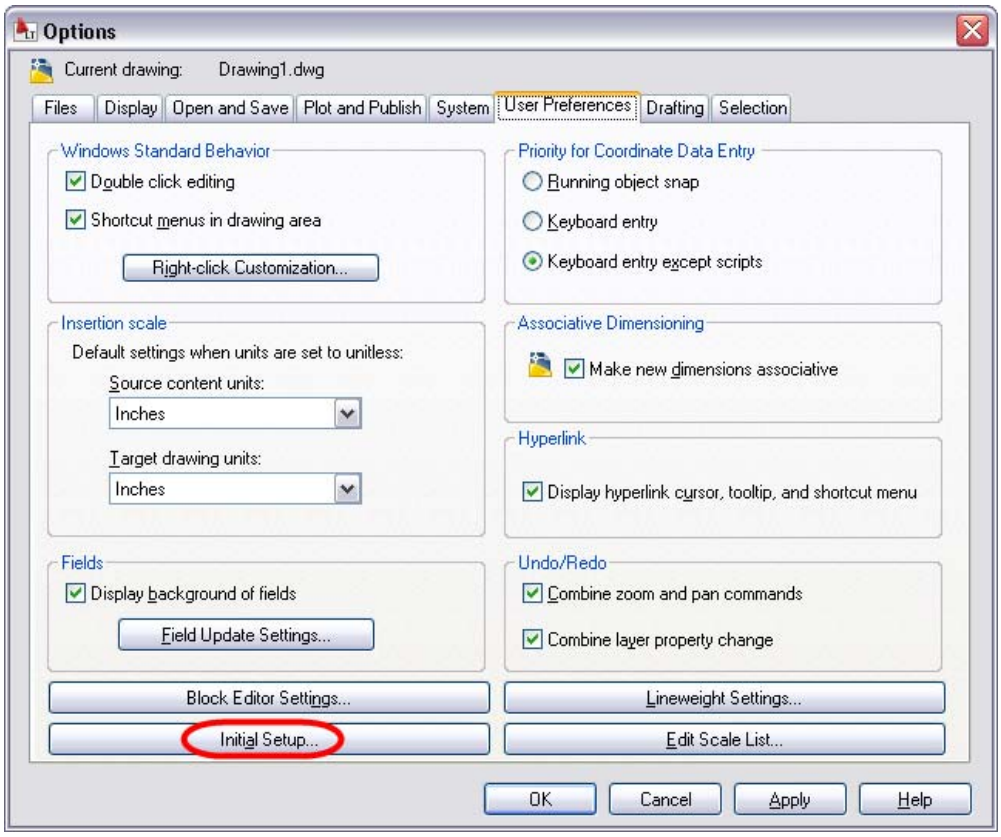

Figure 2. Initial Setup on User Preferences tab of the Options dialog box

Workspaces

When you specify Initial Setup options, AutoCAD LT automatically creates a new workspace based on your choices and sets it current. The name of the current workspace is displayed in the status bar next to the Workspace Switching icon, and you can select it to access the Workspace menu.

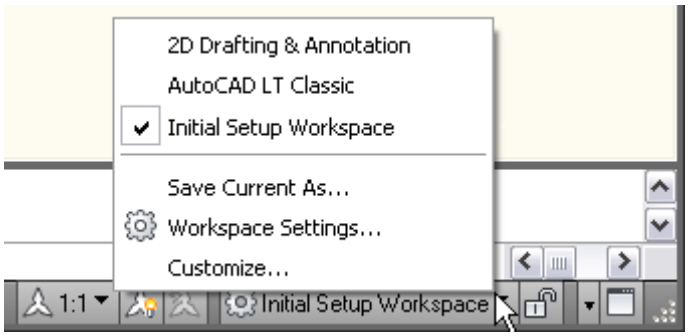

Figure 3. Workspace menu

Application Menu

The Application menu, in the upper left corner of the AutoCAD LT display, has been streamlined to provide you with easy access to common tools. You can create, open, save, print, and publish AutoCAD LT files, send the current drawing as an email attachment, and

produce electronic transmittal sets. In addition, you can perform drawing maintenance, such as audit and purge, and close drawings.

A search tool at the top of the Application menu enables you to query the Quick Access toolbar, the Application menu, and the currently loaded ribbon to locate commands, ribbon panel names, and other ribbon controls.

Buttons at the top of the Application menu provide easy access to Recent or Open documents, and a new option in the Recent Documents list enables you to sort by access date in addition to size, type, or as an ordered list.

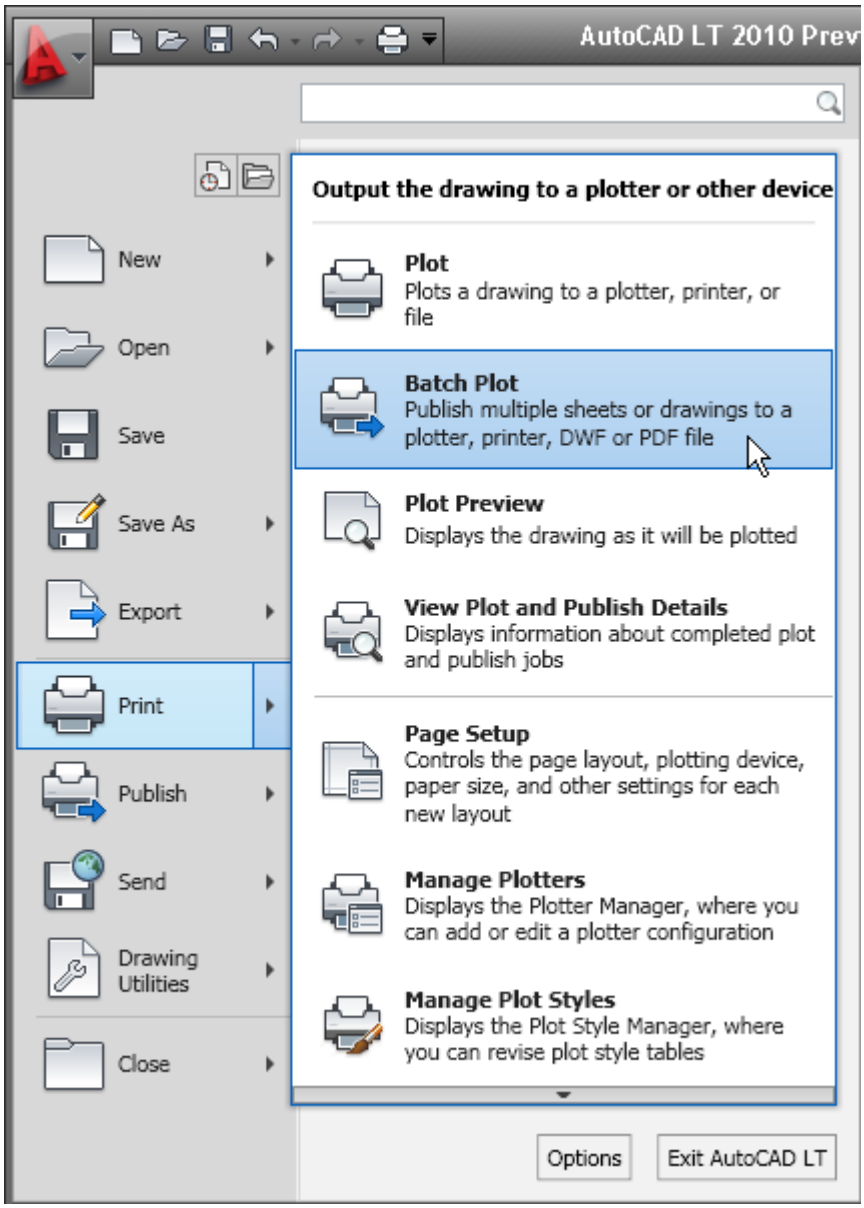
AutoCAD LT 2010 Prev
Output the drawing to a plotter or other device
New
Open
Save
Save As
Export
Print
Publish
Send
Drawing Utilities
Close
Plot
Plots a drawing to a plotter, printer, or file
Batch Plot
Publish multiple sheets or drawings to a plotter, printer, DWF or PDF file
Plot Preview
Displays the drawing as it will be plotted
View Plot and Publish Details
Displays information about completed plot and publish jobs
Page Setup
Controls the page layout, plotting device, paper size, and other settings for each new layout
Manage Plotters
Displays the Plotter Manager, where you can add or edit a plotter configuration
Manage Plot Styles
Displays the Plot Style Manager, where you can revise plot style tables
Options
Exit AutoCAD LT

Figure 4. Application menu

Ribbon

The ribbon has been updated to provide greater flexibility, easier access to tools, and consistency across Autodesk applications.

You can drag a panel off the ribbon to display it as a sticky panel. Sticky panels remain displayed, even when selecting a different tab, until you select the option to Return Panels to Ribbon.

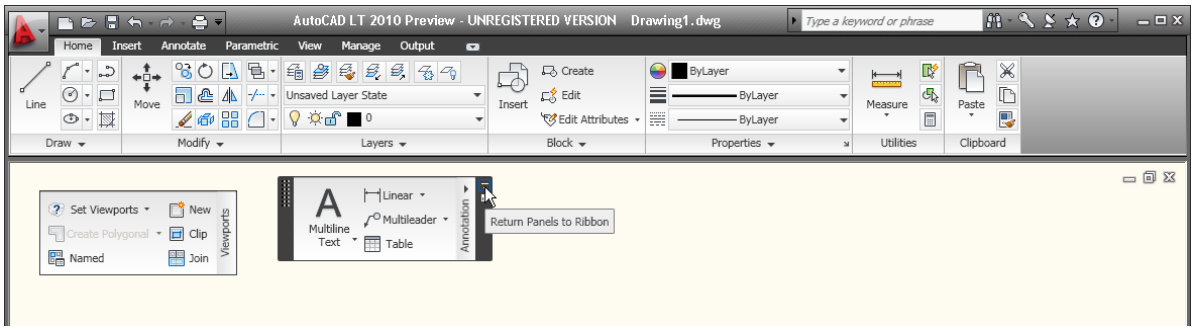

Figure 5. Ribbon and sticky panels

The vertical ribbon, which can be displayed by undocking the ribbon from the top of the display, has been updated to show the tab names along the side. The panel titles are turned off by default, but can be restored through a right-click menu. Certain panels have additional tools located on a slide-out section. When resizing the vertical ribbon, buttons automatically flow to the next or previous row and other elements, such as slider bars, dynamically shorten or lengthen.

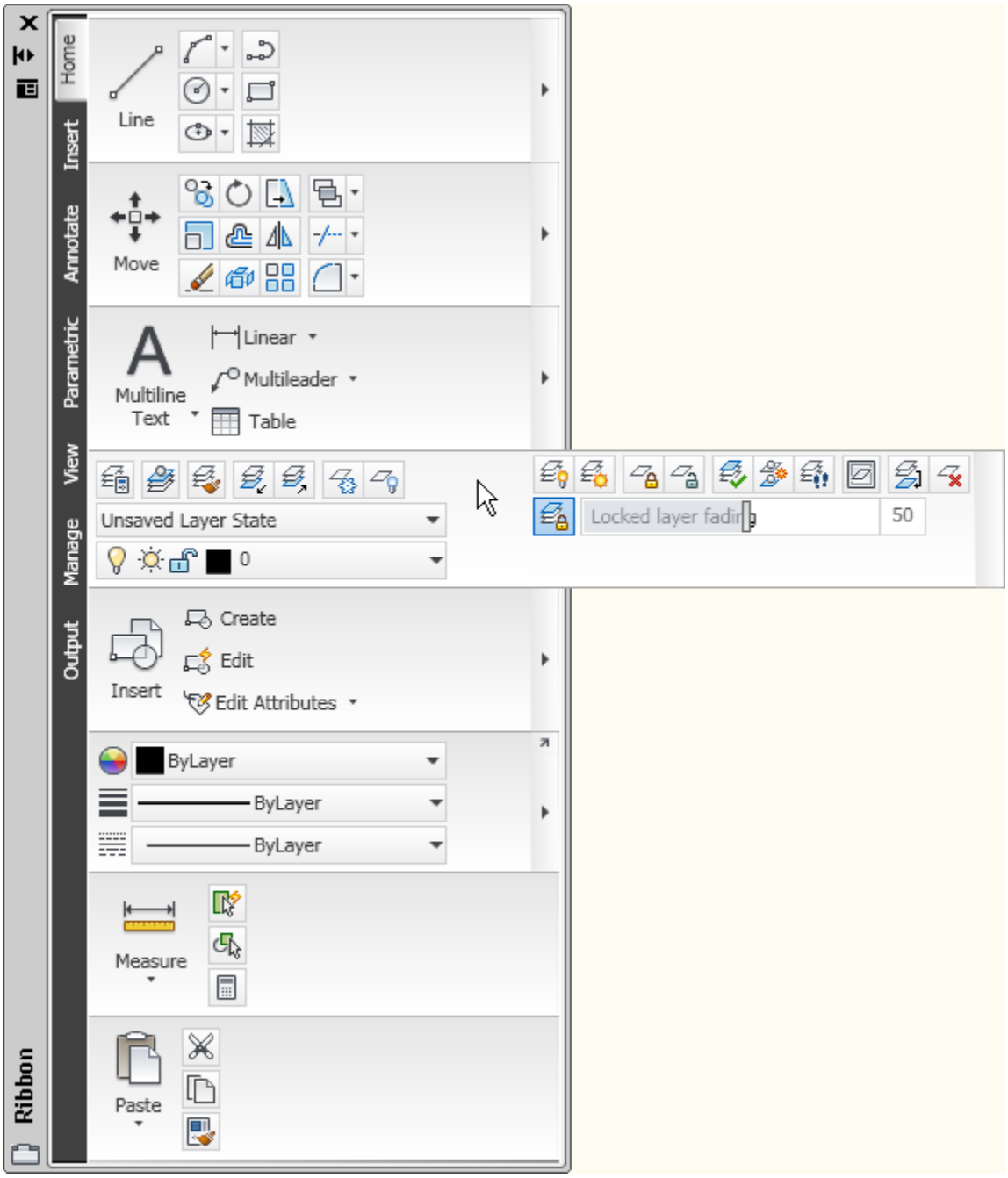

Figure 6. Vertical ribbon with slide-out panel

If you customized the Dashboard in AutoCAD LT 2008, you can easily convert your custom dashboard panels to new ribbon panels using the Transfer tab in the Customize User Interface (CUI) Editor. The newly converted panels are then displayed under the Ribbon Panels node in the same CUIx file as the dashboard panels. Once converted, you can add the new panels to a tab or transfer them to another CUIx file.

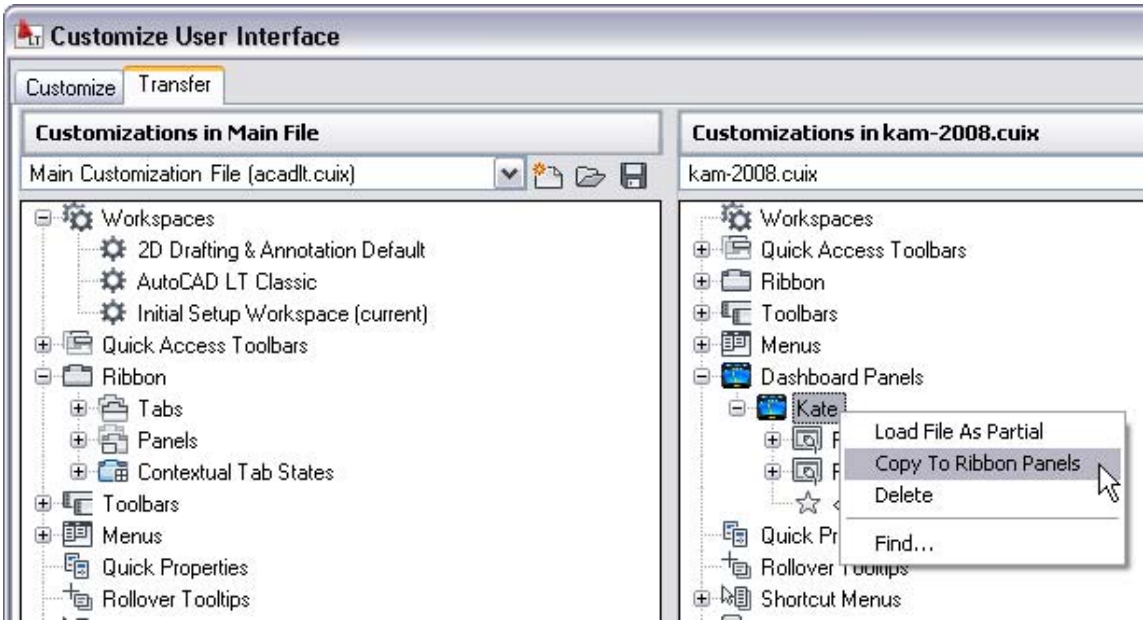

Figure 7. Dashboard conversion

Enhanced ribbon functionality in AutoCAD LT 2010 enables you to customize contextual ribbon tab states, which control the display of ribbon tabs and panels based on either the type of object selected in the drawing window or the active command. You can display a ribbon tab that is assigned to a ribbon contextual tab state either on its own tab or with its panels merged onto each of the ribbon tabs in the current workspace.

To add a ribbon tab to a ribbon contextual state, drag a ribbon tab from the Tabs node in the “Customizations In…” pane to an object under the Contextual Tab States node. For example, if you want the Home tab to become active whenever you select a Polyline object, drag the Home-2D ribbon tab to the Polyline object under the Ribbon Contextual Tab States. You can then select it and modify its display type to indicate if it should be displayed as its own tab or merged onto each ribbon tab.

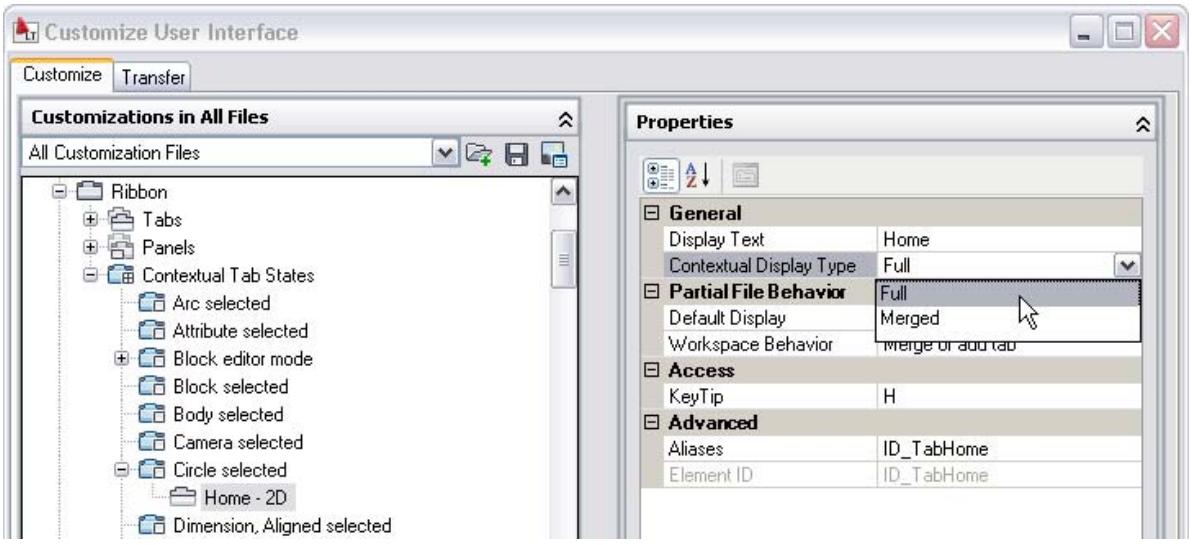

Figure 8. Ribbon Contextual Tab States

Quick Access Toolbar

The Quick Access toolbar has been enhanced with more functionality and to ensure consistency with other Windows® applications. The Undo and Redo tools include history support and the right-click menu includes new options that enable you to easily remove tools from the toolbar, add separators between tools, and display the Quick Access toolbar above or below the ribbon.

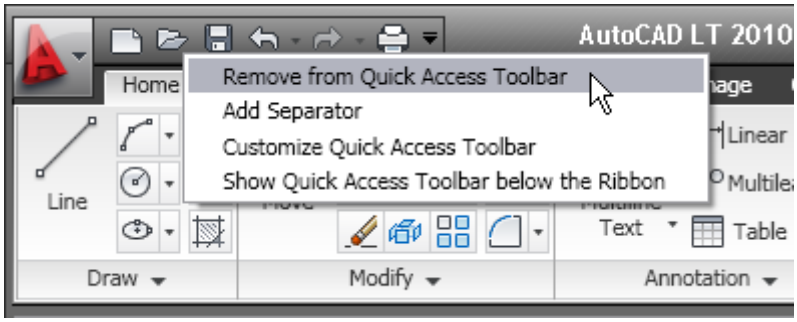

Figure 9. Quick Access toolbar right-click menu

In addition to the right-click menu, the Quick Access toolbar includes a new flyout menu, which displays a list of common tools that you can select to include in the Quick Access toolbar. The “More Commands…” option in the flyout menu provides easy access to additional tools using the Command List pane in the CUI Editor. Other options enable you to show the menu bar or display the Quick Access toolbar below the ribbon.

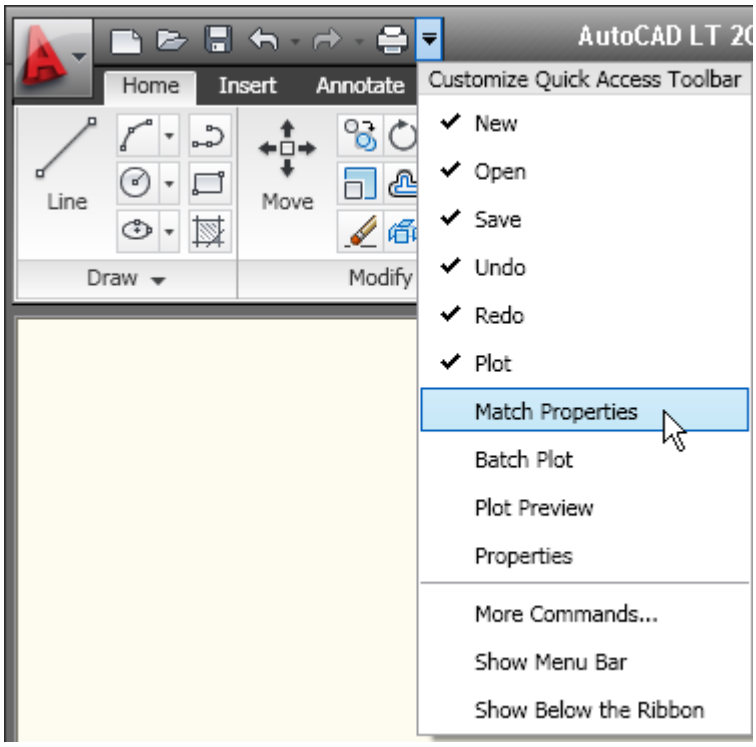

Figure 10. Quick Access toolbar flyout menu

You can further customize the Quick Access toolbar using the new Quick Access toolbar node in the CUI Editor. Use this node to create multiple versions of the Quick Access toolbar and add them to the appropriate workspaces.

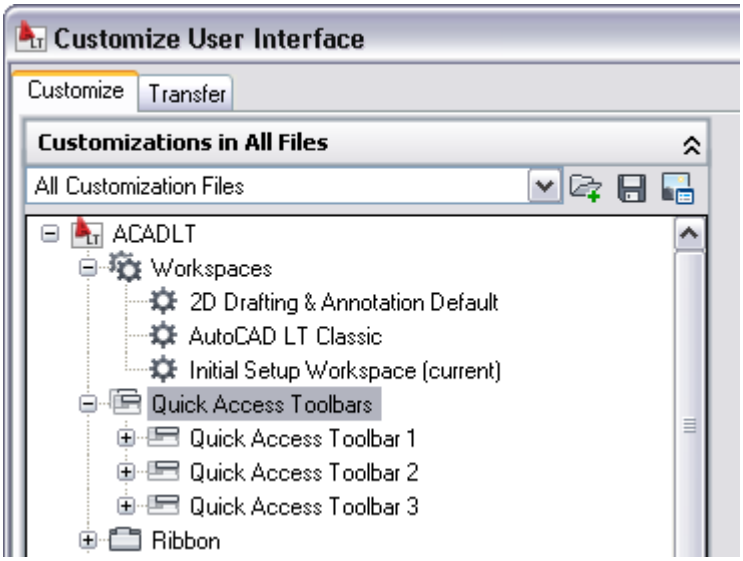

Figure 11. Quick Access toolbar customization

New Features Workshop

The New Features Workshop has been updated to include AutoCAD LT 2010 functionality. This interactive learning tool helps you discover the newest functionality with minimal effort. You can access the New Features Workshop from the drop-down on the InfoCenter toolbar, to the right of the Help button.

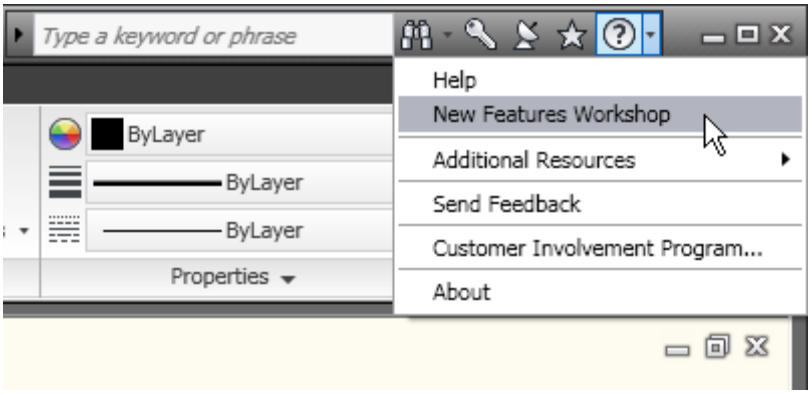

Figure 12. Access to the New Features Workshop

Document

In AutoCAD LT 2010, your wishes are our new commands. Many features in this release were inspired directly by user suggestions and feedback. With these new and improved tools, AutoCAD LT helps make drafting easier and more productive.

Parametric Drawing

AutoCAD® 2010 software now includes the ability to create and modify geometric and dimensional constraints, which help ensure that specific relationships and measurements remain persistent even as objects are modified. AutoCAD LT 2010 cannot create parametric constraints, but it can view, use, or delete them if they have already been created in AutoCAD 2010. The tools for displaying and managing the geometric and

dimensional constraints are available on the Parametric ribbon tab, which is automatically displayed in the 2D Drafting and Annotation workspace.

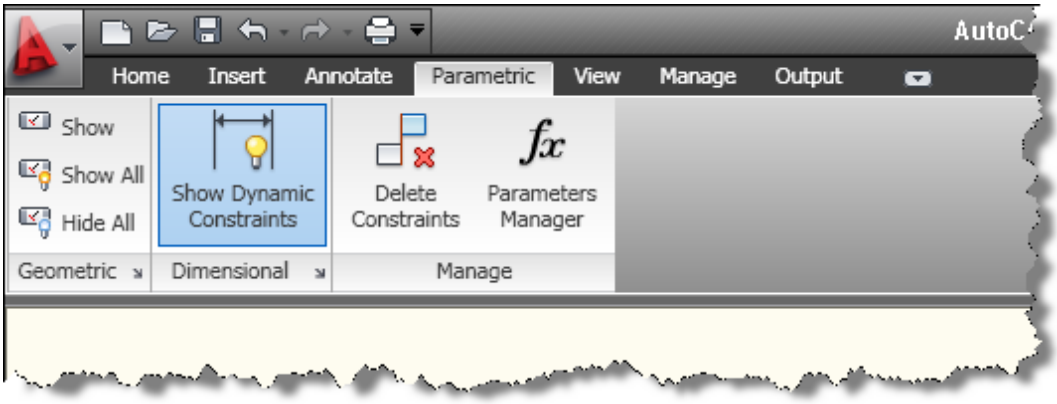

Figure 13. Parametric ribbon tab

To help identify constrained geometry, an icon appears next to the cursor when hovering over a constrained object. In addition, when the display of parametric constraints is turned on, icons appear next to the constrained objects to identify the type of constraint. In the example below, the two circles have been constrained so that they will always remain concentric.

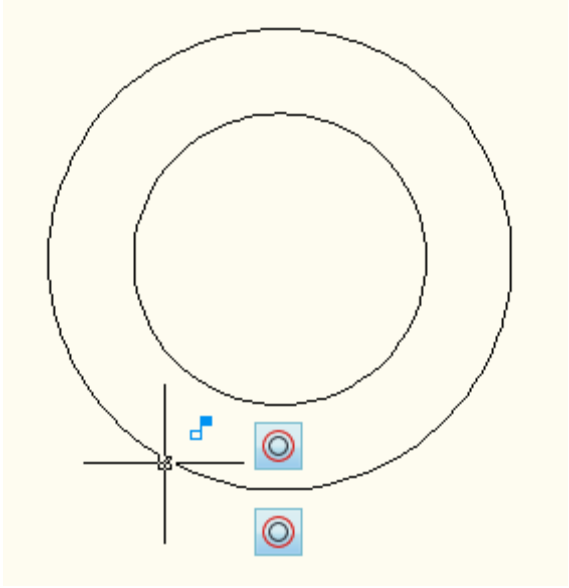

Figure 14. Parametrically constrained geometry

Dynamic Blocks

Dynamic blocks have been enhanced to support geometric and dimensional constraints. Again, although AutoCAD LT 2010 cannot create constraints in a dynamic block, it can use blocks that have already had constraints added. If you attempt to edit a dynamic block that contains parametric constraints, a warning message informs you of the presence of the constraints and asks if you want to continue.

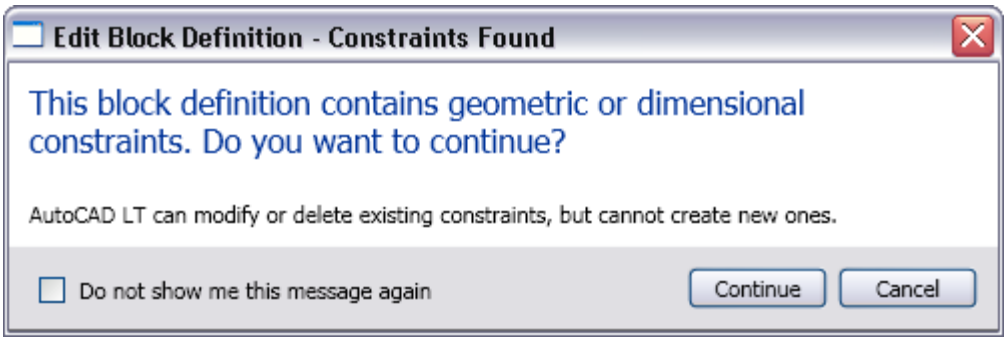
Edit Block Definition - Constraints Found
This block definition contains geometric or dimensional constraints. Do you want to continue?
AutoCAD LT can modify or delete existing constraints, but cannot create new ones.
Do not show me this message again
Continue
Cancel

Figure 15. Parametric constraint alert

Dynamic blocks in AutoCAD LT 2010 also support the ability to define a table of variations of the dynamic block, and some general enhancements have been made to the block editing environment.

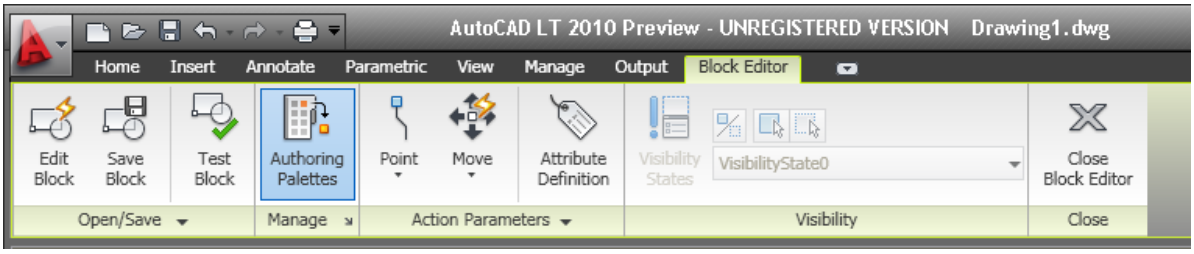

Figure 16. Block Editor ribbon tab

Test Blocks

A new Test Block tool (BTESTBLOCK command) enables you to test a block definition while authoring dynamic blocks. When you use this tool, AutoCAD LT opens a temporary window, similar to a drawing window, with the block reference already inserted. The Test Block window is easily identifiable by the title bar, background color, and the contextual ribbon tab, which includes a button to Close Test Block. When you close the test block, you're automatically returned to the block editor.

Block Properties Table

A new Block Table tool has been added to the block editor. Accessible from the command line or the Block Authoring Palette, the BTABLE command displays the Block Properties Table where you can define different variations of a property set for the block reference. You can enter properties manually, or copy and paste from a Microsoft® Office Excel® spreadsheet.

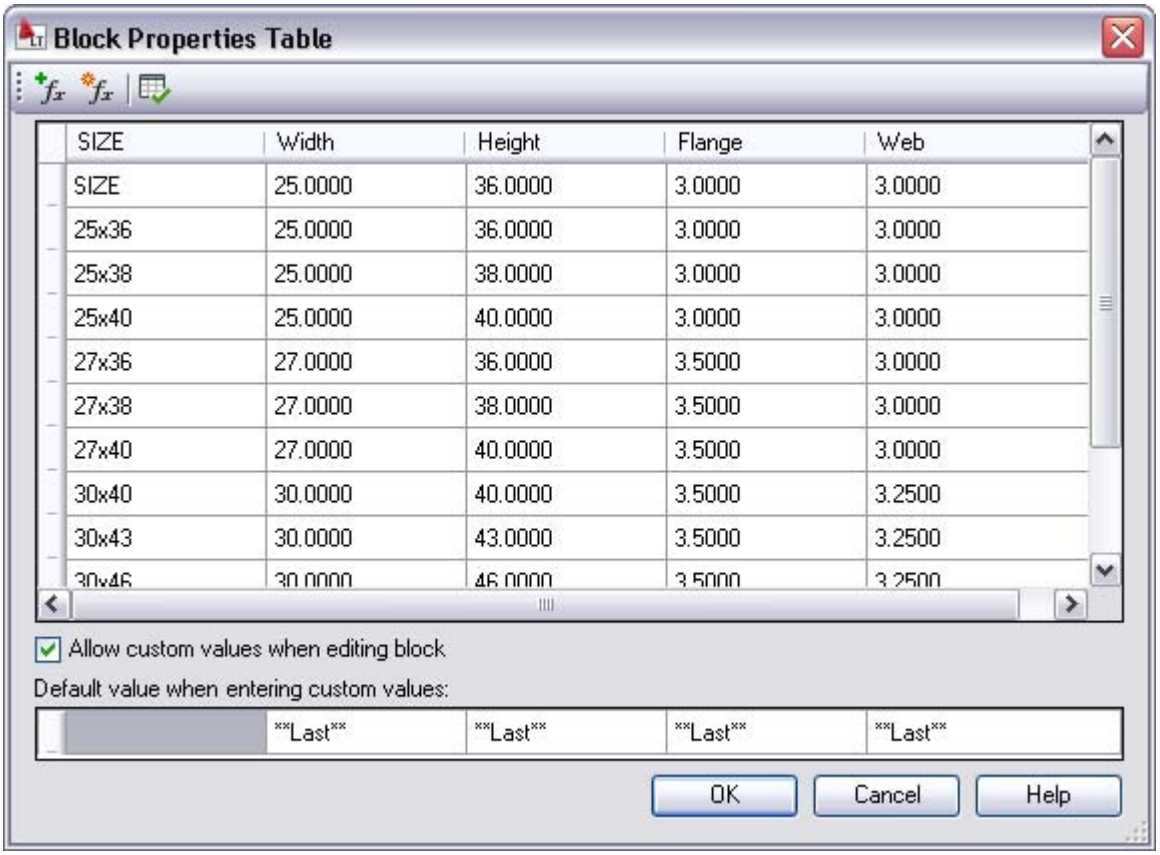

Figure 17. Block Properties Table

A grip on the inserted block reference enables you to switch between different sets of values, or rows, in the table.

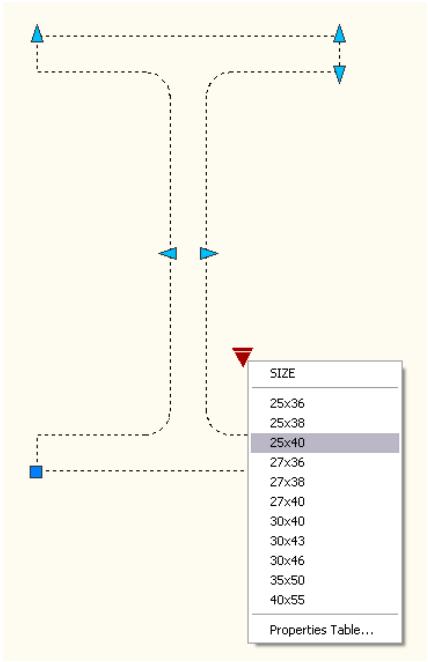

Figure 18. Block Properties Table grip

Action Bars

The display and positioning of Action objects in the block editor is enhanced to be consistent with Constraint bars. Action objects are no longer placed individually in the block editor; rather they are automatically grouped into Action bars based on the parameters with which they are associated. You can toggle between the new and old display styles by setting the BACTIONBARMODE system variable prior to entering the Block Editor.

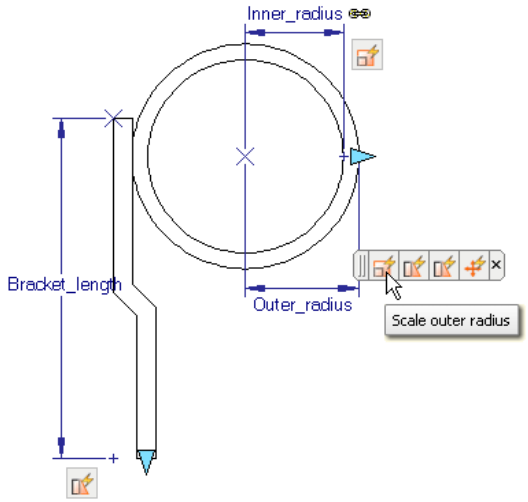

Figure 19. Action Bars

When viewing the block definition with Action bars turned on, you can quickly tell which actions are associated with which parameters and how many actions each of the parameters affects. You can also see which parameter has its “Chain actions” property enabled. If you roll over an action in an Action bar, both the associated parameter and affected geometry are highlighted.

Block Editor Settings

A new dialog box, launched with the command BESETTINGS, enables you to control all the settings for the Block Editor environment in one place. You can apply colors to objects based on their constraint status, making it easy to identify objects that are partially, fully, or over-constrained, or that have no constraints at all. The system variable BCONSTATUSMODE controls whether this shading is used.

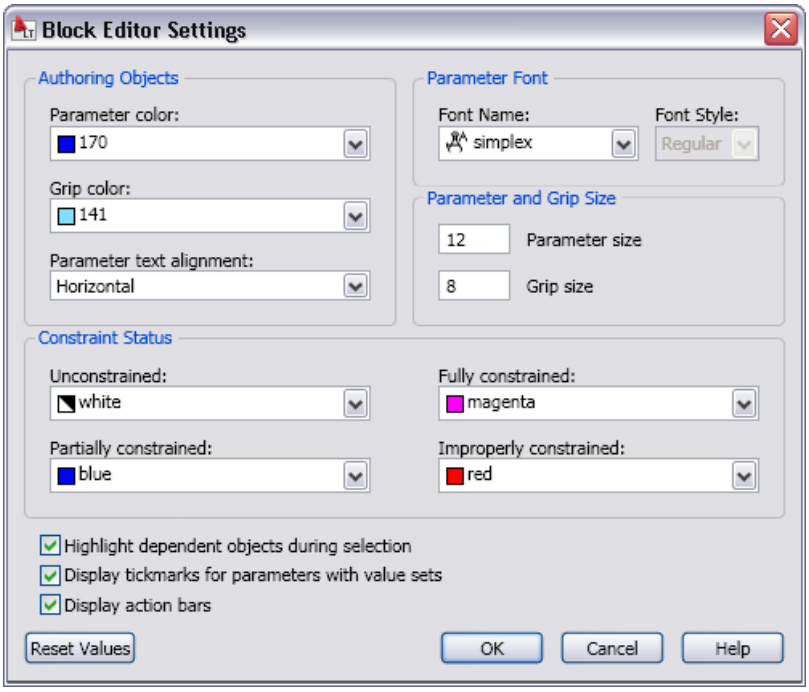

Figure 20. Block Editor Settings

Attribute Tools—New to LT!!
AutoCAD LT 2010 makes it easier than ever to manage block definitions containing attributes.

Synchronize Attributes (ATTSYNC) is now a core command, so that when you add or remove attribute definitions from blocks, you can update all instances of that block to reflect the new attributes.

The Enhanced Attribute Editor is another new command in AutoCAD LT 2010. You can use this tool to quickly change properties of individual attributes in addition to entering values.

Annotation Tools

Find and Replace
Find and Replace functionality has been enhanced for increased efficiency. You can use the new Zoom button to zoom to a highlighted text object, similar to double-clicking on the item within the results list. Additional buttons enable you to quickly create a selection set that includes all of the objects in the results list, or only those that are highlighted.

Multileaders
You can edit the properties of individual Multileader segments by using the CTRL key to select the segment and then accessing the Properties window. New grips at each corner of the leader text enable you to resize the text box in the same way you resize a simple mtext object.

Multileader styles have been enhanced to provide you with more control over the leader connections. On the Leader Structure tab, you can specify Vertical attachment in addition to the traditional Horizontal attachment. On the Content tab, when a Block multileader type is selected, you can specify a scale. The block scale is also displayed as a Multileader property in the Properties window. A new button on the Content tab provides direct access

to the Text Style dialog box, enabling you to create and modify text styles without exiting the Multileader Style dialog box.

The MLEADEREDIT command has been streamlined by eliminating the need for you to select an option to add or remove leader lines. Instead, it adds leaders by default until you select the option to remove leaders.

Multiline Text
Mtext improvements include a default column mode of Dynamic with manual height. In addition, the corner grips on mtext objects are now consistent with the corner grips on table objects.

Spell Check
The Check Spelling dialog box has been updated to include an Undo button, which enables you to undo actions you made for the previous spelling mistake. In addition, the Select Objects button has been enhanced so that you can begin selecting objects to check without first having to choose the Select Objects option from the drop-down list.

Dimensions
Enhancements to dimension styles and properties provide more control over the display and placement of dimension text.

The Text tab of the Dimension Style dialog box has been updated with a new text placement option that enables you to position dimension text below the dimension line. You can also control the direction of the text using the new View Direction option, in which you can specify that the text be displayed from Left-to-Right or Right-to-Left. The Properties palette has been updated to include these new properties as well.

The Primary and Alternate Units tabs of the Dimension Style dialog box include new sub-unit controls in the suppression of leading zeros. Instead of displaying a dimension value less than 1 as a decimal, you can specify a sub-units factor and suffix. For example, if the unit is 1 meter, you could specify a sub-unit factor of 100 and sub-unit suffix of cm. In this case, when the dimension value is less than 1, such as .96, it would display as 96cm instead of .96m. The new sub-units properties are also included in the Properties palette.

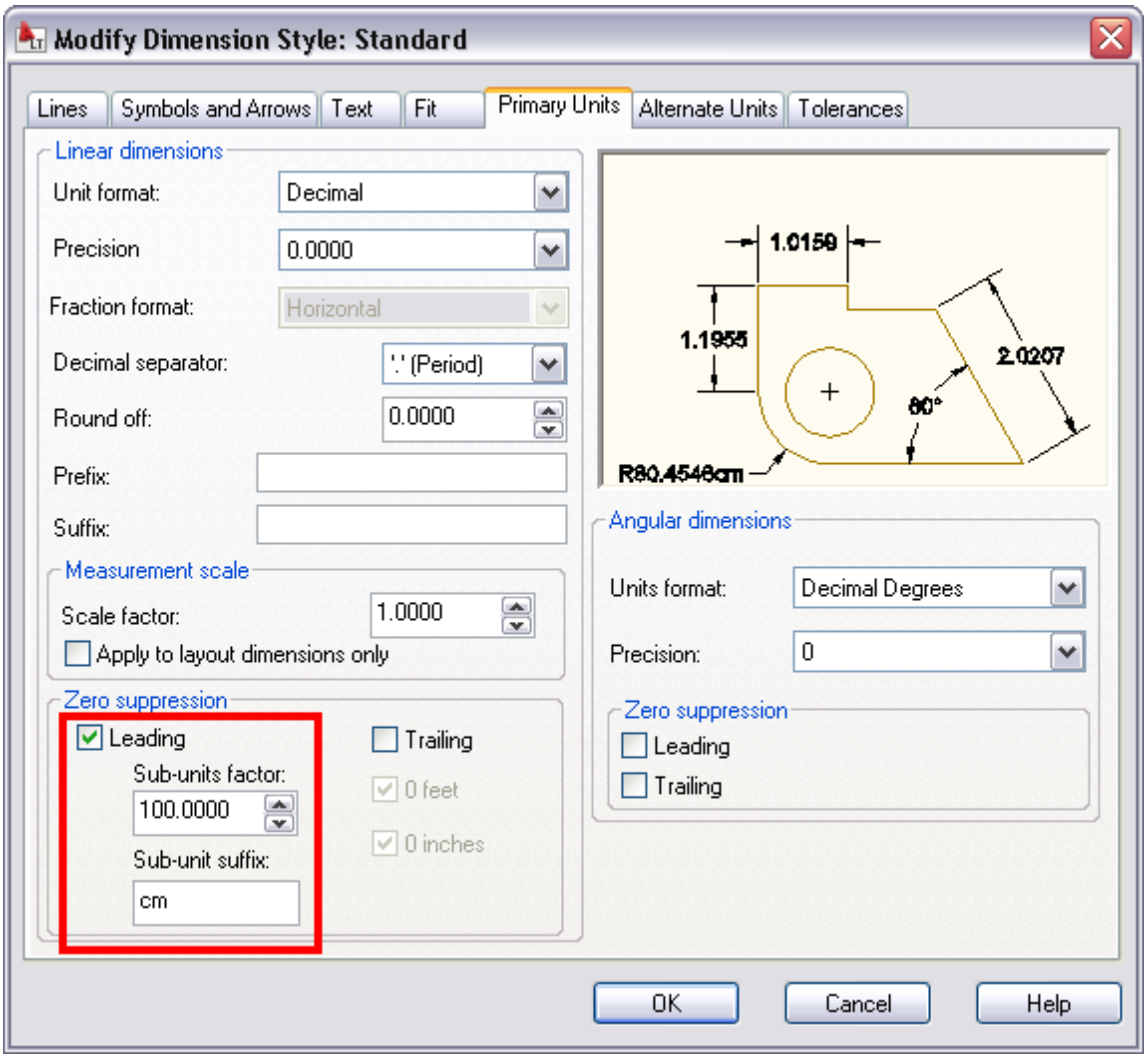

Figure 21. Sub-unit controls

Hatch

When a hatch boundary area is not found, AutoCAD LT attempts to show you where the problem may have occurred. Red circles appear around endpoints near where any gap in geometry is estimated to be.

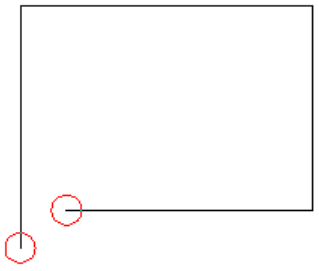

Figure 22. Hatch boundary gap

Additional enhancements provide more robust boundary detection and the ability to edit non-associative hatch objects. You can select on a non-associative hatch and then use intuitive grips to dynamically change its shape.

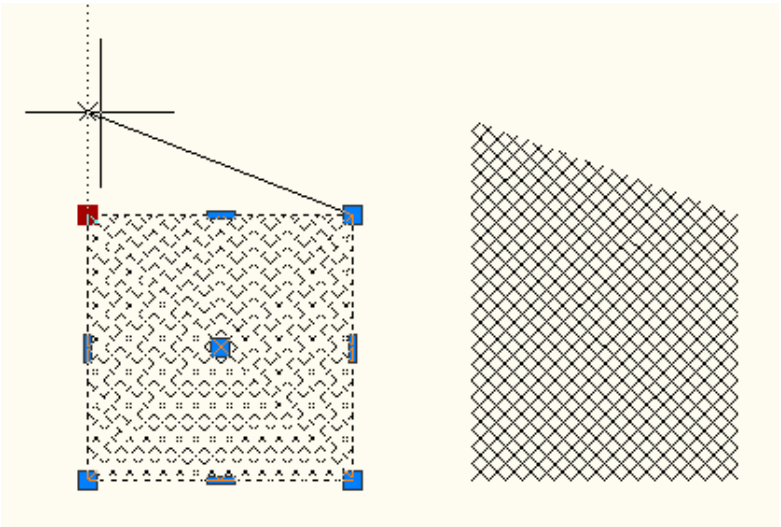

Figure 23. Non-associative hatch editing

Color Selection

In AutoCAD LT 2010, you can set layer colors and pick from the AutoCAD LT Color Index with ease. Access the Select Color dialog box directly from the Layer drop-down list by clicking on the layer color swatch. If the layer has a viewport color override, the color swatch has a white border. The new color you select applies to the appropriate viewport color override or global color. Behavior within the Select Color dialog box has also been improved. As you hover the cursor over a color swatch, the arrow cursor and a black border are displayed, in addition to the traditional white border, making it easier to see which swatch you are about to select.

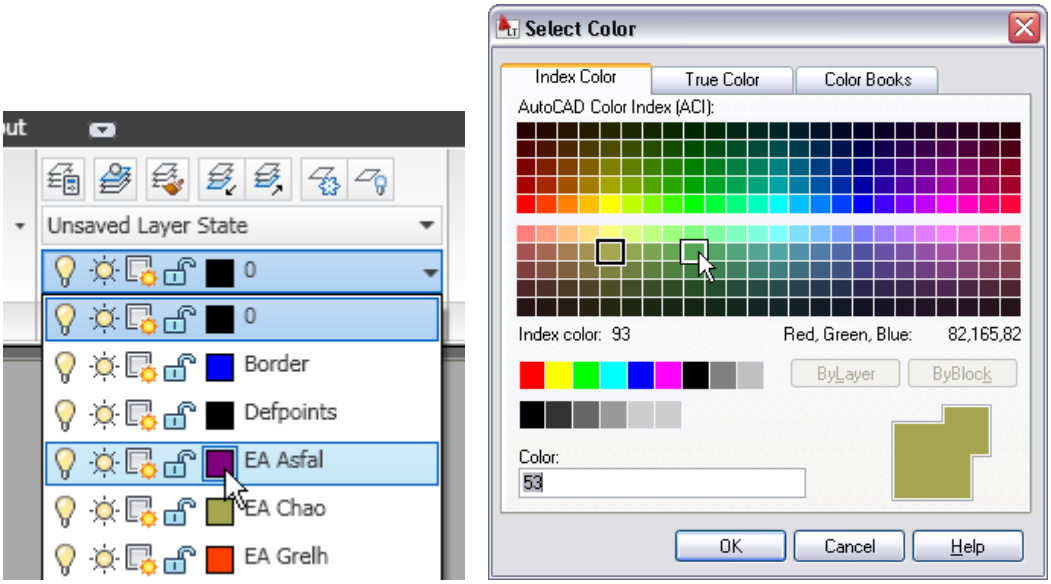

Figure 24. Color selection

Measure Tools

The new MEASUREGEOM command enables you to measure the distance, radius, angle, area, or volume of a selected object or a sequence of points. You can access these tools from the Utilities panel of the Home ribbon tab. The default option is Distance. However, selecting a different measure tool will set it as the default for the remainder of the AutoCAD LT session or until a different tool is selected.

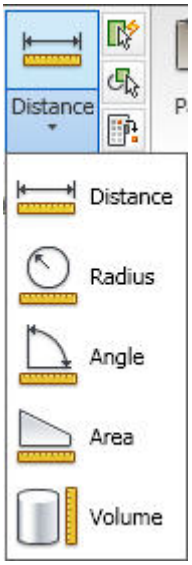

Figure 25. Measure tools

The Distance tool enables you to measure the distance between two points. AutoCAD LT visually displays the distance, Delta X, Delta Y, and angle in the XY plane within the drawing editor. If you select the Multiple option, you can continue picking points and, with each pick, AutoCAD LT displays the cumulative distance. Other options within the Distance tool are similar to the Polyline command, enabling you to switch between Line and Arc measuring modes.

You can use the Radius tool to display the radius of a selected arc or circle. The Angle tool measures the angle of a specified arc, circle, line, or selection of three points.

The Area tool enables you to specify points or select objects to display the included area. You can use the Add or Subtract options to determine cumulative areas. As you specify points or select objects, the included area dynamically highlights so that you can see what you've selected. Additional options within the Area tool enable you to switch between line and arc measuring tools so that you can easily measure curved spaces as well as polygonal.

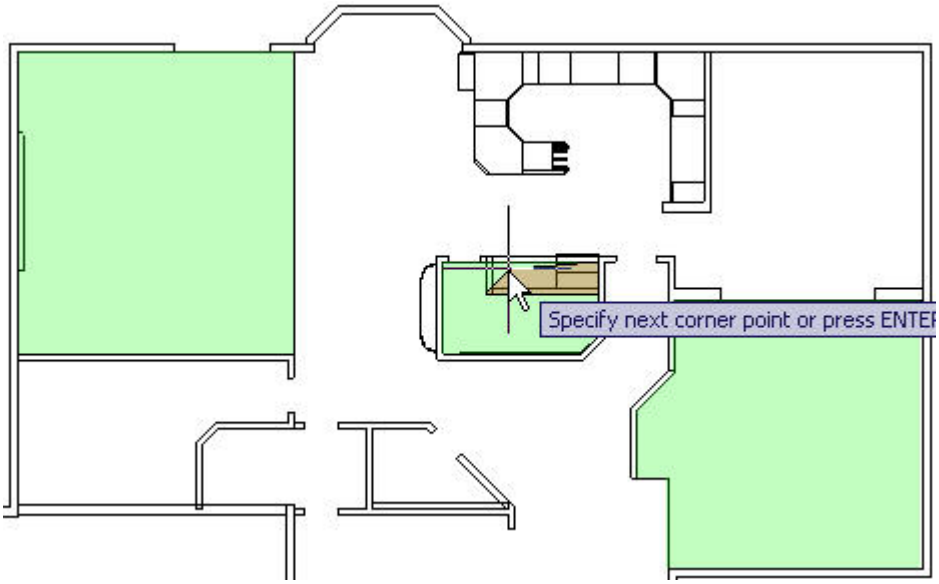

Figure 26. Area highlighting

You can use the Volume tool to specify boundary points with visual feedback similar to the Area option, and then specify a height to determine the volume. Additionally, you can display the volume of selected solids or regions.

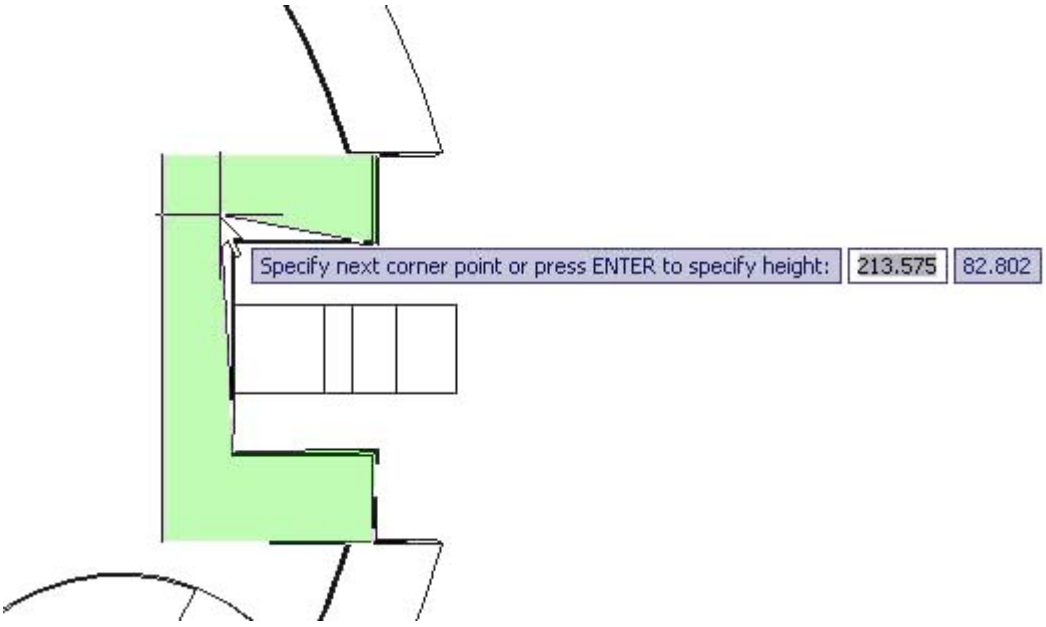

Figure 27. Volume highlighting

Reverse Tools

The new REVERSE command enables you to reverse the direction of lines, polylines, splines, and helixes. Simply select the object(s) to reverse. The ability to change the direction of these objects provides you with more control, such as the display of special linetypes.

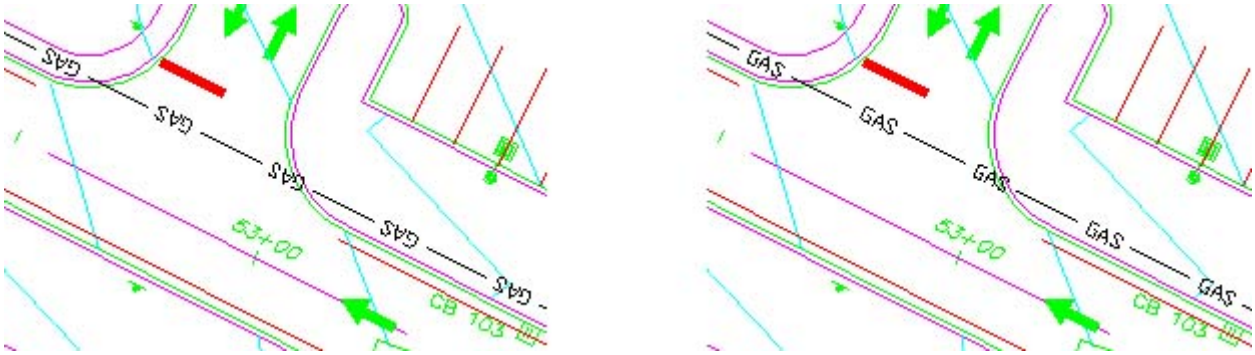

Figure 28. Result of REVERSE command

In addition to the new REVERSE command, the PEDIT command has been updated to include a new Reverse option. Simply select the polyline you want to edit and choose the Reverse option. The results are the same as using the REVERSE command.

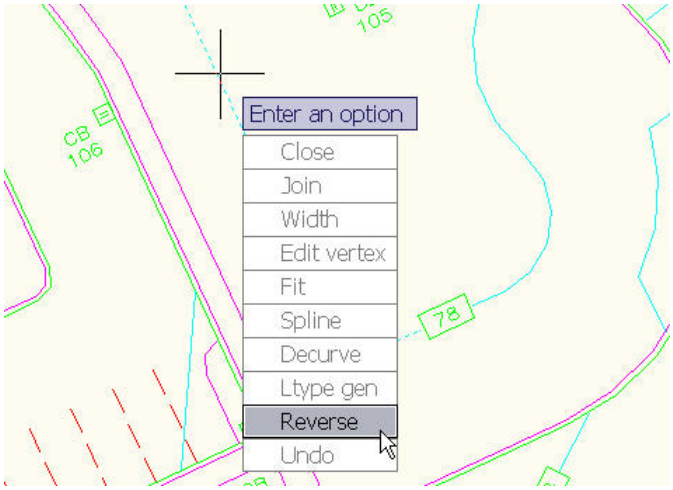

Figure 29. Reverse option in PEDIT command

Spline Editing Tools

The updated SPLINEDIT command includes a new option to convert a spline to a polyline. You can launch the SPLINEDIT command from the Modify ribbon panel. Simply select the spline you want to edit and choose the Convert to Polyline option. You'll then be prompted to specify a precision for the conversion. Enter any value between 0 and 99. The higher the value you choose, the more accurate the polyline will be.

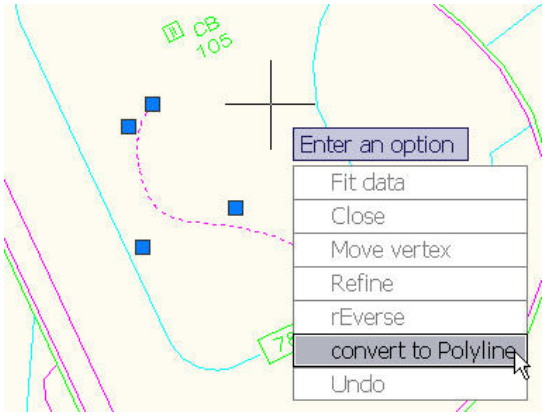

Figure 30. Convert to polyline option

In addition to the new Convert to Polyline option in the SPLINEDIT command, you can use the updated PEDIT command to select a spline object and convert it to a polyline. After selecting the spline and confirming that “Yes” you really do want to convert it, you can specify the precision between 0 and 99.

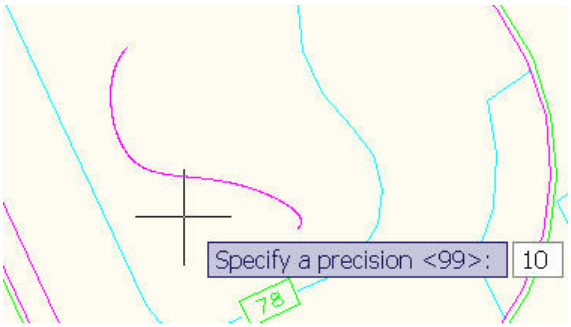

Figure 31. Spline to polyline precision

To further control the accuracy when converting splines to polylines, you can use the new PLINECONVERTMODE variable to specify the fit method. When PLINECONVERTMODE is set to 0, polylines are created with linear segments. When it’s set to 1 (the default), polylines are created with arc segments.

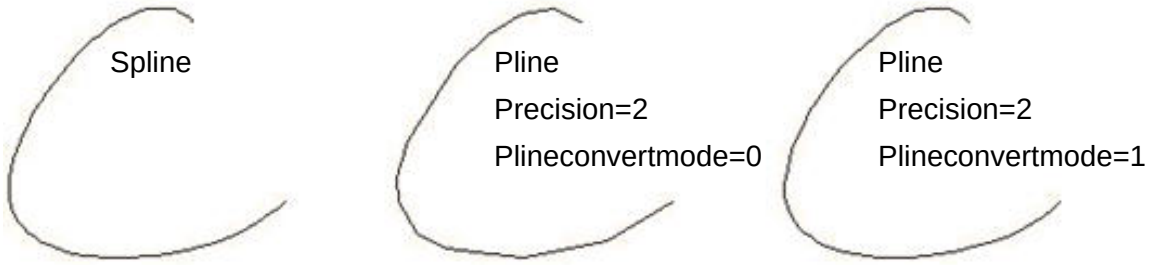

Figure 32. Polyline conversion mode

The DELOBJ variable has been updated to support the PEDIT and SPLINEDIT commands. This variable was previously introduced in AutoCAD as a way to control whether geometry used to create 3D objects (profiles, paths, etc) is retained or deleted. In AutoCAD LT 2010, it is accessed via the command line only. When DELOBJ is set to 0, the option to Retain Defining Geometry, the original spline is retained in addition to the new polyline, which is created. When DELOBJ is set to any other option/value, the original spline is deleted.

Align Objects

Another command new to AutoCAD LT 2010 is the Align command. A much-requested tool by AutoCAD LT customers, Align enables you to pick points that will be used to move, scale, and/or rotate an object to bring it into alignment with another object.

Purge Tools

The Purge dialog box has been updated to include an option for purging zero-length geometry and empty text objects.

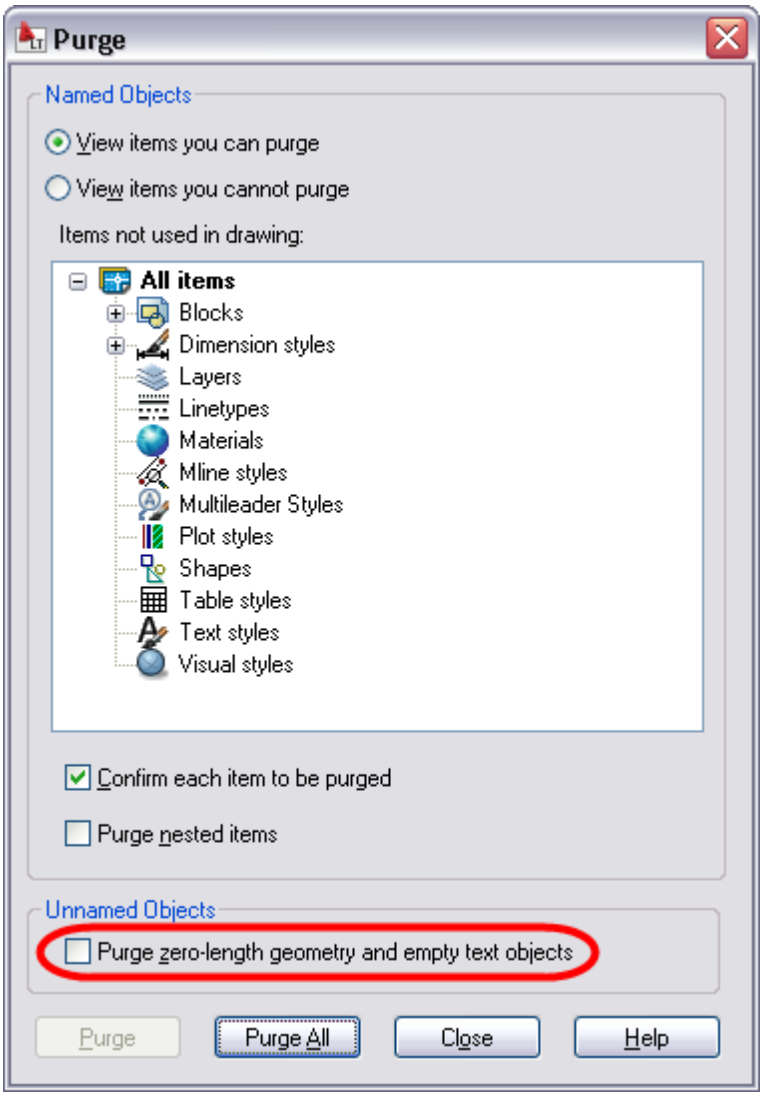

Figure 33. Purge dialog box

How do you create zero-length geometry or empty text objects? Usually by accident! For example, you might grip-edit a line and accidentally snap one endpoint onto the other endpoint. Or you might begin creating mtext, enter a space, and then cancel out of it. The mtext object still exists, but you can't see it because it consists of nothing more than a space. After performing the Purge operation, AutoCAD LT will report how many zero-length or empty text objects it purged. The same functionality is also available at the Command line using the -PURGE command.

Viewport Rotation Tools

The new VPROTATEASSOC variable enables you to control the rotation of a view within a layout viewport. When you rotate the viewport with VPROTATEASSOC set to 1 (the default), the view will also rotate to maintain its orientation relevant to the viewport. When it's set to 0, the view within the viewport will not rotate even though the viewport itself does.

Original Viewport VPROTATEASSOC=0 VPROTATEASSOC=1

Figure 34. Viewport rotation

External References

AutoCAD LT 2010 provides a consolidated interface and increased flexibility for working with externally referenced files in a variety of formats, including DWG™, DWF™, DGN, PDF, and image files.

Geographic Data

You can attach externally referenced drawing files using geographic data. If both the host drawing and the external reference drawing have a geographic location, a new option on the External References dialog box enables you to locate the attached xref relative to the host drawing using Geographic Data. A similar option is available in the Insert dialog box.

Reference Tools

The Reference panel on the Insert tab of the ribbon provides tools for you to attach and modify externally referenced files. Use the Attach tool to select a DWG, DWF, DGN, PDF, or image file and specify attachment options. Additional tools enable you to clip a selected reference, adjust its Fade, Contrast, and Brightness settings, control its layer visibility, display reference frames, snap to underlay geometry, and adjust xref fading.

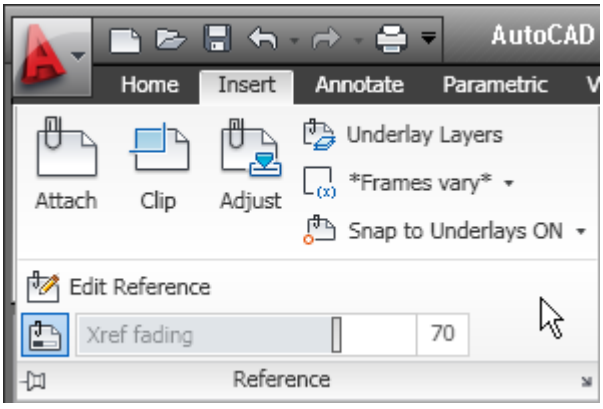

Figure 35. Reference ribbon panel

When you select a reference file in the drawing, a relevant contextual tab is automatically displayed in the Ribbon. For example, if you select a PDF underlay, the PDF Underlay tab is displayed providing you easy access to PDF underlay tools.

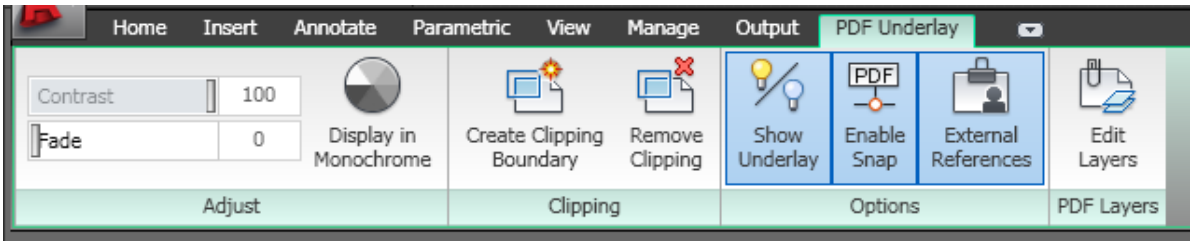

Figure 36. PDF Underlay contextual tab

Easily edit the clip boundary of any reference using grips. You can even invert the clip with a simple click on the invert grip.

Figure 37. Inverted clip boundary

You can display the reference frame for each type of reference using specific frame system variables such as DWFFRAME, DGNFRAME, and PDFFRAME. To quickly override these individual system variables, use the Frame tool (FRAME system variable) in the References panel of the Insert ribbon tab. You can hide frames, display and plot them, or display but not plot them.

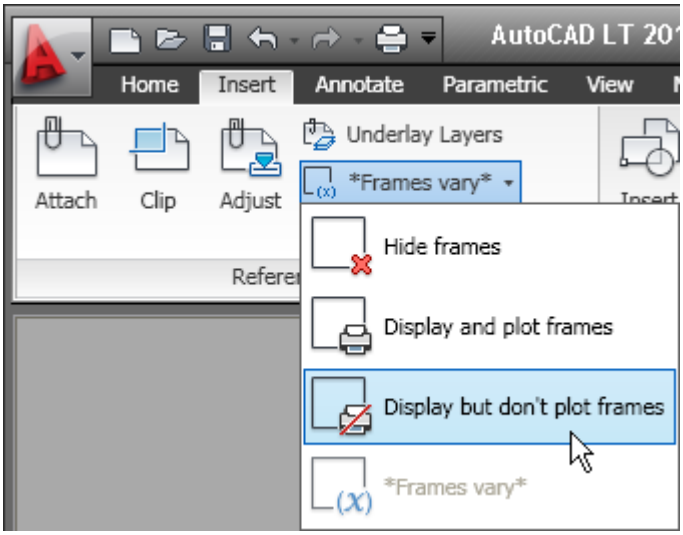

Figure 38. Frame controls

You can enable object snapping for geometry in underlay files. To control this behavior for specific reference types, use their individual system variables such as DWFOSNAP,

DGNOSNAP, and PDFOSNAP. You can override these individual system variables using the Snap to Underlays tool (UOSNAP system variable) in the References panel of the Insert ribbon tab.

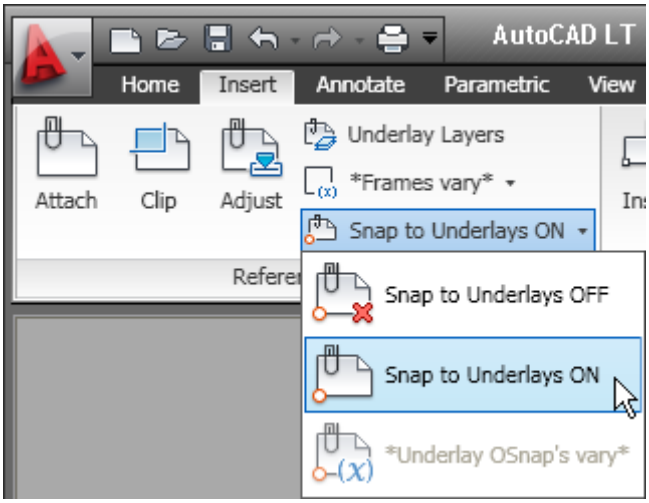

Figure 39. Underlay controls

When you open a drawing that has unresolved references, a new tool helps identify the missing files.

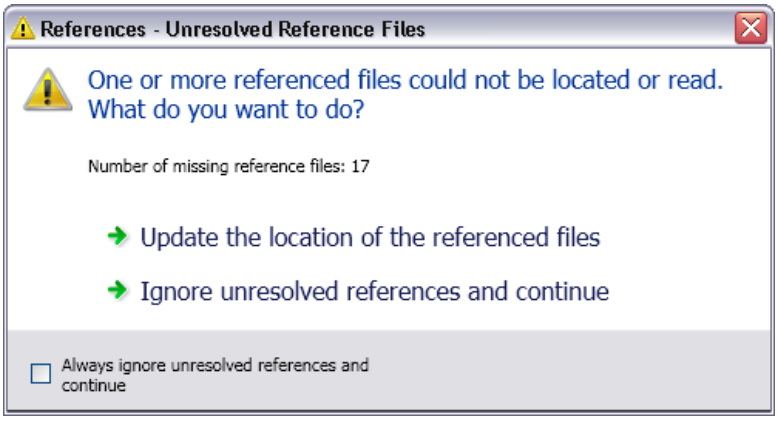
References - Unresolved Reference Files
One or more referenced files could not be located or read.
What do you want to do?
Number of missing reference files: 17
Update the location of the referenced files
Ignore unresolved references and continue
Always ignore unresolved references and continue

Figure 40. Unresolved reference files

If you choose Update, AutoCAD LT opens the External References palette so you can re-path the missing files. If you choose Ignore, the warning closes and takes no action. If you always want to ignore unresolved references, use the checkbox at the bottom to stop the warning from displaying again.

This is a great improvement over previous versions, when you had to manually search for missing references by checking the command line when opening a file, scouring the drawing for the text strings identifying unresolved references, or looking in the External References palette.

More External Reference Commands—New to LT!!
Several external reference commands previously only available in AutoCAD® software have now been included in AutoCAD LT 2010.

The first is In-Place Reference Editing (REFEDIT). This feature enables you to make changes directly to a referenced file without opening it. REFEDIT can also be used on

block references, if you have a situation where you want to be able to modify a block and still see its surrounding geometry.

Related to REFEDIT is XOPEN, which enables you to right-click on an xref and open it directly from the drawing editor or the External References palette. Now you can quickly open a referenced file without having to list it, remember its name, and browse your computer or server to find it.

Finally, the ability to clip an external reference is now fully functional in AutoCAD LT 2010. Now you can use XCLIP to create your own clipping boundaries, turn them on or off, and even invert them, as mentioned above.

Quick Views

The preview images for Quick View Layouts and Quick View Drawings have been enhanced to include a preview image of Model space in addition to the layout previews.

Collaborate

With AutoCAD LT, collaboration is a seamless operation. Share critical design data securely, efficiently, and accurately with AutoCAD LT. Experience the benefits of native DWG support, one of the world's most widely used design data formats, allowing you to keep everyone in the loop at all times. When you need a non-editable file instead, quickly and easily create DWF or PDF files for world-wide readability. It's collaboration at its best.

PDF Support

PDF Output

PDF output now provides more flexibility and higher quality than was previously available. The default vector resolution has been increased from 400 to 600 dpi to produce precise lineweights at a reasonable file size. To further improve the visual quality of PDF output, TrueType fonts are exported as text rather than as graphics. This improves the visual quality of text and also enables highlighting, searching, and copying text within the PDF viewer. Additional improvements include the ability to specify merge control, include layer information, and automatically preview the plotted PDF.

You can use the Plotter Configuration Editor to view and modify the PDF settings for plotted output. Select the DWG to PDF.pc3 plotter in the Plot dialog box and then choose Properties. The new Merge Control option is displayed under the Graphics node and the other options are accessible when you select Custom Properties.

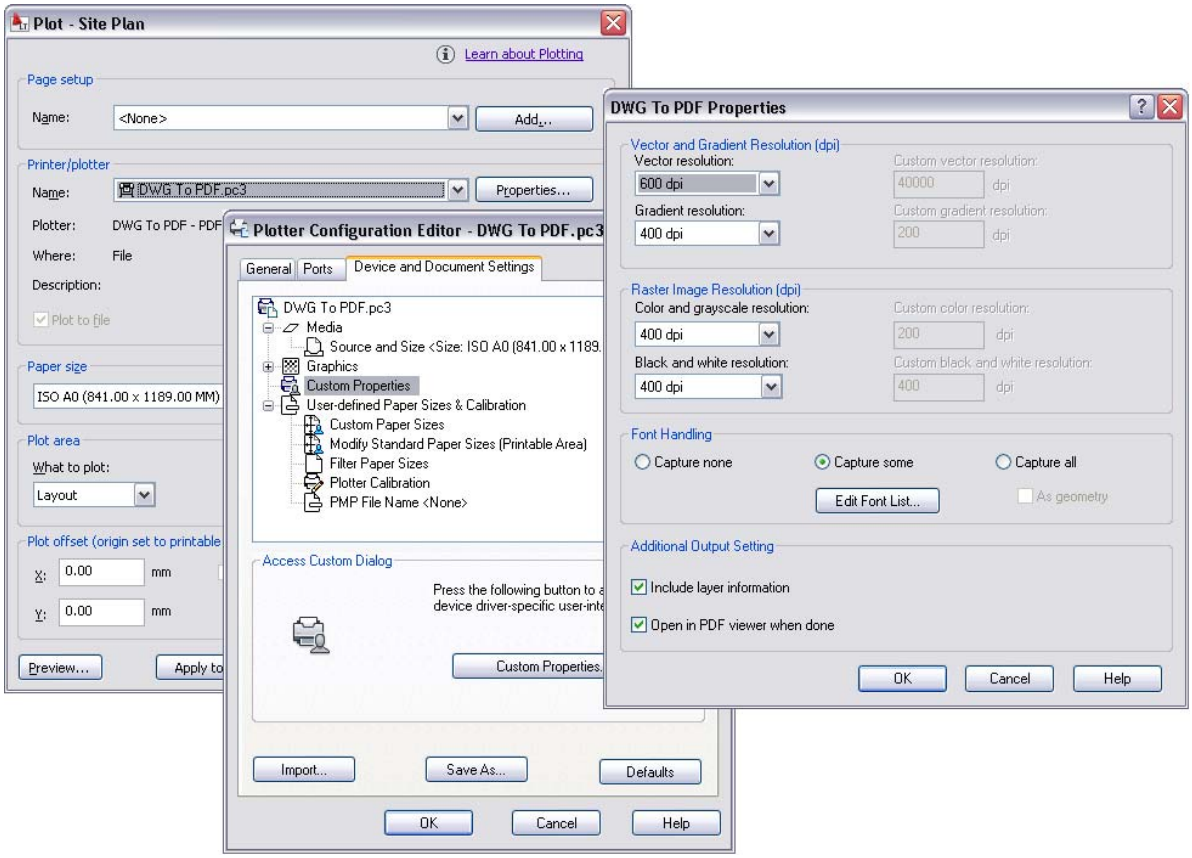

Figure 41. DWG to PDF Plotter Configuration properties

You can control many of the PDF output settings separately for exported, published, or plotted PDF files. A new Export to DWF/PDF panel on the Output ribbon tab provides access to the Export to DWF/PDF Options dialog box where you can specify a single- or multi-sheet PDF file, include layer information, and apply merge control. After applying the appropriate options, you can select PDF from the flyout tools.

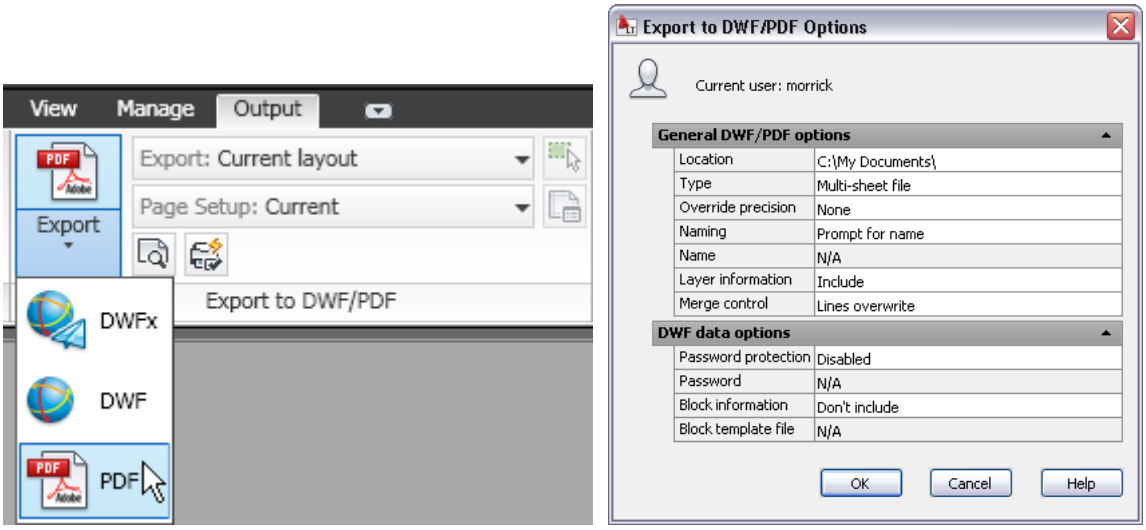

Figure 42. Export to DWF/PDF

In addition to the Plot and Export functionality, PDF support has been integrated into Publish. You can specify PDF output, including single- or multi-sheet, layer information, and merge control, in the Publish Options dialog box.

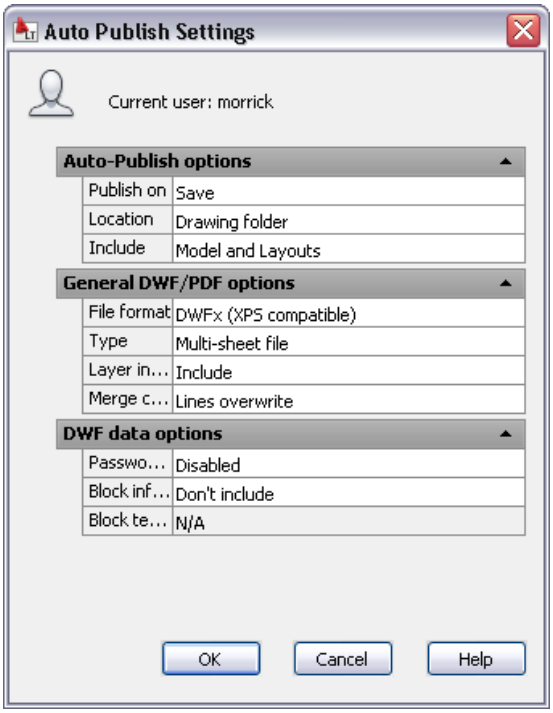

Figure 43. Publish Options dialog box

PDF Underlays

AutoCAD LT 2010 addresses one of the top Autodesk User Group International (AUGI®) wish list requests by enabling you to attach a PDF file to an AutoCAD LT drawing as an underlay. You can work with PDF underlays in the same way you work with other external references including DWG, DWF, DGN, and Image files. You can even snap to key points on PDF geometry using familiar object snaps. For more information, see the External References section.

Drawing File Format

AutoCAD LT 2010 introduces a new file format that offers improved save times, especially when saving files with lots of annotative objects, along with several new features.

Improved File Navigation

File Navigation dialogs, such as Open and Save, now support auto-complete when typing file names.

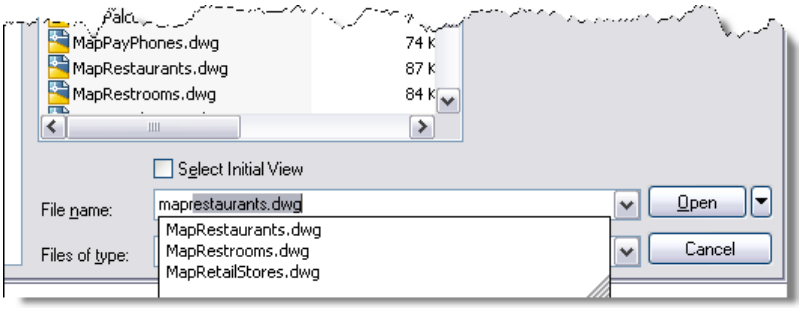

Figure 44. Auto-complete file names

Object Size Limits

In previous versions of AutoCAD LT, no single object in an AutoCAD LT drawing could be larger than 256 MB. In AutoCAD LT 2010, the object size limit has been increased to at least 4 GB (depending on your system configuration), providing more flexibility. These large objects, however, are not backwards-compatible, so a new compatibility option has been added to the Open and Save tab of the Options dialog box.

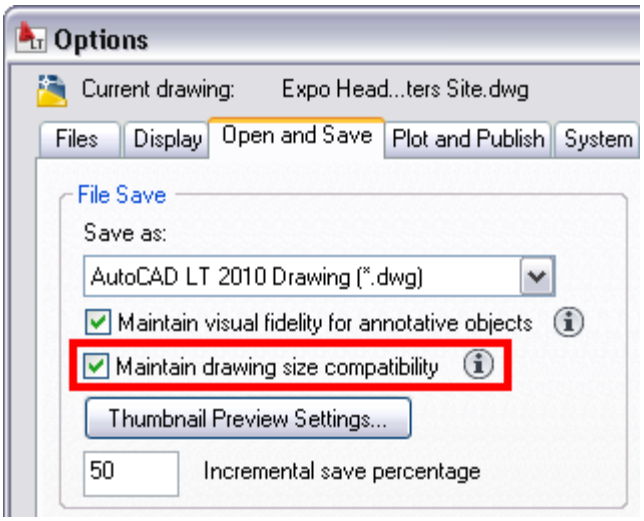

Figure 45. Maintain drawing size compatibility

When the box is checked, object size limits from previous versions will be used instead of the new, expanded limits.

eTransmit

The eTransmit functionality has been enhanced to include a new option to “include unloaded file references.” When this option is enabled, all unloaded reference files are included in the transmittal set but will remain unloaded in the eTransmit package. The Archive functionality includes the same option to include unloaded file references and is enabled by default.

Autodesk Seek

Autodesk Seek enables you to easily search from inside your Autodesk design application for building product information and design files and download them directly into your AutoCAD drawings.

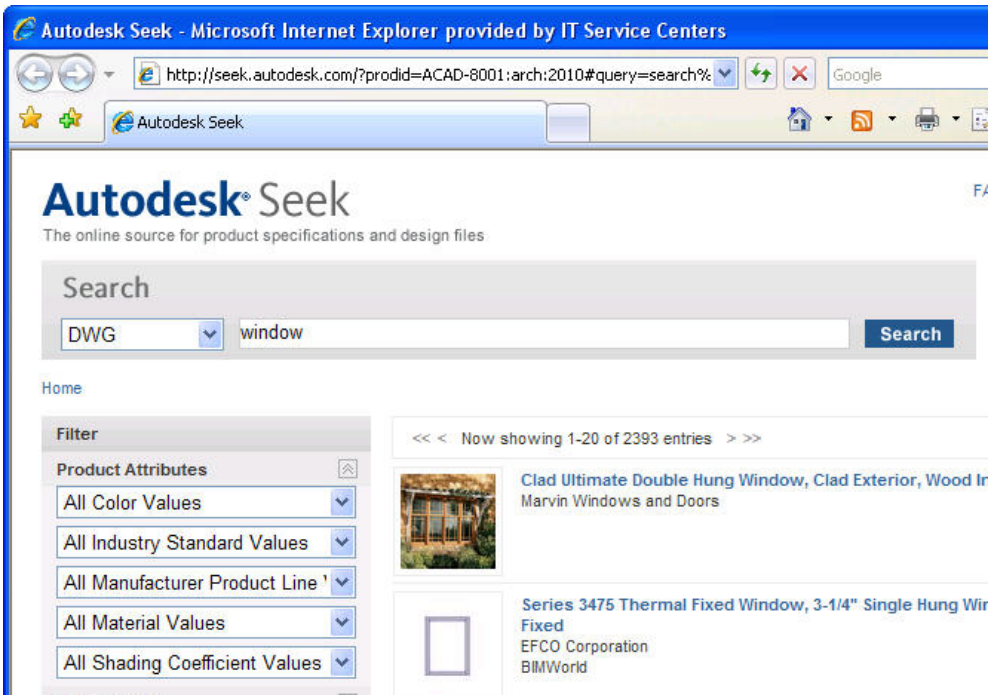

Figure 46. Seek search results

In addition, you can share designs with peers by uploading them directly from AutoCAD to the Autodesk Seek web service. Easily access Share using Autodesk Seek from the Output panel of the ribbon tab.

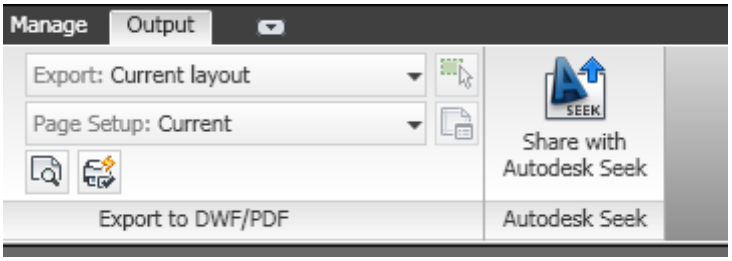

Figure 47. Share with Autodesk Seek tool on the ribbon

You can choose to share the current drawing or select a block definition within the drawing.

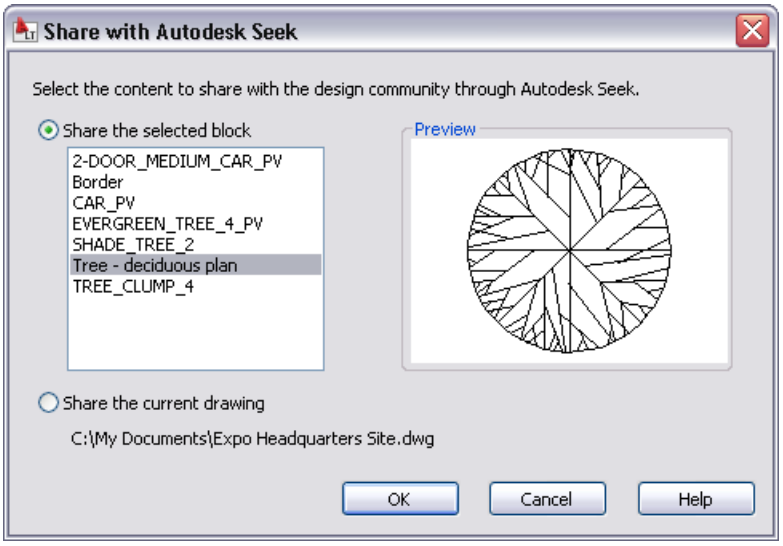

Figure 48. Share with Autodesk Seek dialog

Optimize

Optimize AutoCAD LT in ways you never thought possible. Your job is unique. Your software should be as well. Creating custom elements in AutoCAD LT to meet your needs is easier than ever. Configure your settings, create custom command sequences, build personalized workspaces, and share your CUI elements and tool palettes with your coworkers.

CUIx File

In AutoCAD LT 2010, the CUI file is replaced with the new CUIx file format. A CUIx file is a package file format that helps to improve performance when working with the CUI Editor. In addition to typical CUI information, a CUIx file contains the custom images used by the commands defined in the file.

Online License Transfer

AutoCAD LT 2010 includes a new Online License Transfer (OLT) utility that enables you to move standalone licenses between computers. It replaces the Portable License Utility (PLU) used in previous Autodesk product releases. You can access OLT functionality from the License Transfer Utility option in the Start menu.

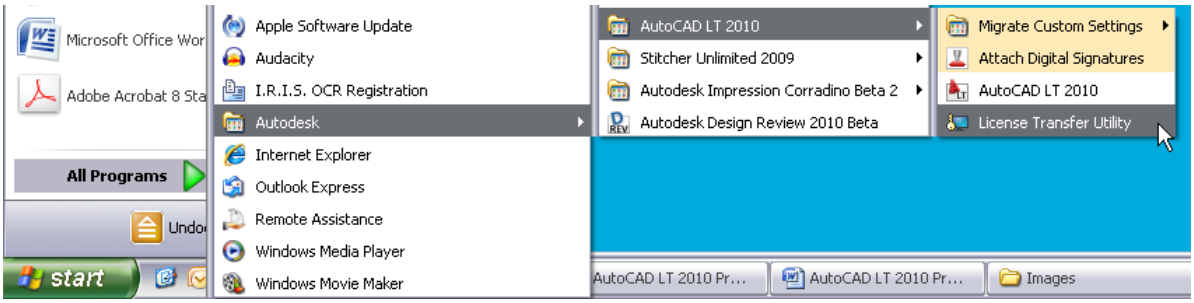

Figure 49. License Transfer Utility

From the License Transfer Utility, you can choose to export or import a license. Both options require you to log in to Autodesk. You can export a license as either private or public. A private license can only be imported by the person that exported it. A public license can be imported by any user running the same product and serial number.

Summary

With AutoCAD LT 2010, you can create precise technical drawings with ease. Accurately and efficiently create, modify, and document your drawings. Enjoy compatibility and seamless communication with genuine DWG files. With powerful features and intuitive commands, it's no wonder AutoCAD LT is the professional choice.

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